

# UNATTENDED CHILD POLICY

## Shelby Community Library

Adopted July 5, 2005

Updated November 2, 2010

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Approved June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012

The Shelby Community Library welcomes all children to use their facilities and services. Responsibility for children using the library, however, rests with the parent/guardian-not with the librarian. Shelby Community Library, its staff and volunteers will not be responsible as temporary supervisors of children who are left unattended.

Children aged six or under should not be left unattended at the Shelby Community Library. This is an issue of safety and of proper supervision for all children, but especially those of six years or younger who are required to be supervised continually while at the library by a parent/guardian not an older brother/sister or babysitter.

Children aged seven and older may use the library unattended subject to demonstration of appropriate behavior, conduct, and demeanor. Children who exhibit disruptive behavior, conduct, or demeanor, etc., and actions in the library which infringe on the rights of others using the library or the extension of regular library services, will be warned by staff one time. At the time of the second warning, library staff will ask the patron to leave the library property. If the patron is a minor child, staff will attempt to contact the child's parent/guardian. In extreme cases of inappropriate or threatening behavior, library staff reserves the right to contact local law enforcement authorities.

The library finds that after a child is in the library for more than thirty minutes problems arise. The library feels that a one-visit per day or thirty minutes a day limit will be placed; unless the patron demonstrates that they are using the library for reading or reference work. A sign-in sheet may be used.

It is necessary to limit computer use to 30 minutes per child to enable other children / patrons the opportunity to use them.

At the close of library service hours all patrons will be asked to leave the library building. Parents/guardians should make arrangements to pick their children up prior to close, as the library cannot and will not assume responsibility for persons or property outside the building.

This policy is designed to protect children, not to discourage them from visiting libraries; also, for the library to run efficiently as possible.